

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 292

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to commend the Honorable George H. Brown, Jr., first African American member of the Tennessee Supreme Court and urge the designation of a state building or facility in his name in commemoration of his service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to permanently commemorate the accomplishments of those exemplary public servants who, during their lifetimes, have contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable George H. Brown, Jr., of Memphis should for his pioneering achievement be appropriately memorialized as the first African American member of the Tennessee Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge Brown is a consummate professional who has demonstrated dedication, integrity, service, and compassion as a jurist, both as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court and as Circuit Court Judge for the Thirtieth Judicial District for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Florida A&M University and Howard University School of Law, George H. Brown, Jr., served as a conciliator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1969 to 1971 and was Executive Director of Memphis Area Legal Services from 1971 to 1973 before entering private practice; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 1980, George H. Brown, Jr., was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Lamar Alexander, becoming the first African American to serve on that distinguished bench; and

WHEREAS, after a return to private practice, Judge Brown won election to the Circuit Court, Thirtieth Judicial District, in 1983, and subsequently won re-election until his much deserved retirement from the bench in 2005; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed and admired member of the legal community, Judge Brown served as a member of the Tennessee Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Commission in 1992, the Judicial Performance Program Committee in 1995, the Commission on Alternative Dispute Resolution in 1996, and the Tennessee Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee from 1996-2002; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Judge George Brown, Jr., received the Sam A. Myar Award for Outstanding Service to the Legal Profession and to the Community from the Memphis Bar Association in 1979; the Chancellor Charles A. Rond Outstanding Jurist Award from the Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association in 1995; and the Hero of Pro Bono Representation Award from the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Foundation and the Memphis Bar Association in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Judge Brown has committed his entire life to ensuring that all people are afforded equal opportunities and equal treatment under the law. He has served on the bench with diligence, perseverance, and courage, and exemplifies the characteristics of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that this Body urge the State Building Commission to appropriately designate a state facility or building to permanently commemorate Judge Brown's legendary accomplishments and sterling service to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly commends the Honorable George H. Brown, Jr., for his years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee and hereby finds it highly appropriate that a state building or facility be designated in his honor in recognition of his distinguished and historic career as a jurist in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Building Commission is urged to consider this request and appropriately select a state building or facility to be named in honor of Judge Brown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the State Building Commission with this final clause omitted from such copy.